

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 24 MARCH 2005**

#### **SERVICES TO OLDER PEOPLE**

##### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update committee on developments in the provision of older people services.
- 1.2 To seek agreement to formulate a care home strategy in light of changing needs and capacity.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and subsequent policy direction has increasingly required us to shift the balance of care from institutional to care in the community. Ideally this should take the form of care at home to reflect the wishes of the majority of older people. However, when it is not safe or practical to sustain care at home then care in a homely environment should be provided as an alternative.
- 2.2 In 2001 the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 introduced the concept of a single care home, set a wide range of National Standards in respect of both physical layout and staff qualifications and required all providers to move towards higher standards in all that they purchased or provided in respect of residential care services.
- 2.3 In order to meet the needs of older people in East Ayrshire we require to ensure that the full range of quality services are available when and where called for within this legislative framework.
- 2.4 Against this backcloth the Council undertook a Best Value Service Review of its in-house residential services for older people, reporting its recommendations to Social Work Committee on 11 September 2003.
- 2.5 At the same time as this review and emerging new models of care in the residential sector much work was taking place to increasingly target the most vulnerable by extending day supports, intensifying care packages and continually identifying turning points in the lives of older people in order to sensitively develop flexible services to meet their changing needs and aspirations.
- 2.6 Over recent times reports advising of changing demographics have emerged which resulted in the Joint Future Partnership Group commissioning a Capacity Planning Report on Services for Older People. This was presented to Social Work Committee on 9 September 2004 and reinforced the need to continuously develop the full range of supports from prevention right through to residential care provision for older people, recognising the balance of care when increasingly shifting towards home and community based services.

2.7 Finally, on 1 December 2004 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Board approved a report on the redesign of hospital services for older people in East Ayrshire which will result in the closure of the present Holmhead and Kirklandside Hospitals. One of the Council's principal day services for older people is based within the former Roseburn Day Hospital in the grounds of Holmhead and will require to be relocated when the hospital closes.

### **3. CURRENT PROPOSALS**

#### **3.1 AUCHINLECK**

3.1.1 The new Auchinleck Care Home (Glennie House) is scheduled to open in mid May 2005. Residents from Affleck House will transfer to the new unit and will all be accommodated in single en-suite rooms.

3.1.2 At the same time patients from Holmhead who do not require NHS continuing care will move from Holmhead to more appropriate care home accommodation, including the new unit. This will be supported financially by resource transfer to the Council from NHS Ayrshire and Arran. Patients who actually require NHS continuing care will move to East Ayrshire Community Hospital.

3.1.3 By mid 2005 residents will have transferred from Affleck House and this accommodation will then become available. This offers the opportunity to develop the premises into a social care facility to support community care services in the locality. This would include replacement facilities for day supports displaced from the Holmhead site (Roseburn), and other supports including disability resource services, community laundry and accommodation to support joint mental health working.

#### **3.2 ROSS COURT**

3.2.1 It is envisaged that the upgrading work currently underway at Ross Court will be completed by July 2005. Consequently the site will provide a range of services including sheltered housing, day care, intensive assessment facilities (10 beds), community facilities for older people and an out of hours base to expand our existing 24 hour cover arrangements for vulnerable people.

### **4. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Since completion of the Best Value Service Review of Residential care for Older People in 2003 there have been significant developments that require further consideration. These include:

- Demographic trends that indicate an increase of over 30.5% in the number of people over 75 years of age in East Ayrshire in the next 15 years.
- Significant changes in respect of our residential capacity since the Best Value Review of 2003. In addition to the Council commissioning the new unit in Auchinleck, another independent provider has recently been given planning permission to build a 54 bed care home in Kilmarnock. Our existing providers have expanded their capacity offering a further 15 beds and most recently a new independent provider has also indicated to the Council an intention to develop within our area.

- In 2004 a joint National Review Group, involving CoSLA, Independent Care Providers and the Scottish Executive produced a report on the “true cost of care”, which all providers now need to consider when benchmarking to ensure best value can be demonstrated.
- In December 2004 the Council agreed to the establishment of a Member/Officer Group to complete a Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing Warden Services. The relevant service committees are now being asked to extend the remit to include a full review of current and future models of supported accommodation. If agreed, this review is likely to provide opportunities to develop greater community supports for our most vulnerable people.

4.2 We require to take a strategic view to developing services that best meet the needs of older people in our communities. To achieve this we require to formulate a care home strategy that reflects changing needs and capacity.

4.3 In light of the above considerations it is proposed that:

- We proceed with the current proposals in relation to Auchinleck and Ross Court as they do not directly impact on our care home capacity and to delay would have significant implications for the Council.
- We delay further implementation of the remainder of the recommendations of the Best Value Review until a new care home strategy is formulated which takes account of the implications of developments outlined at section 4.1.

## **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None at this time.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Costs of refurbishment of Affleck House have yet to be determined but will be met from resources in the Dalsalloch insurance settlement specifically set aside to develop a social care facility as per Policy and Resources Committee 28 November 2002.

## **7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) agree to the proposals in section 3.1.3 above in relation to Auchinleck;
- (ii) note progress in section 3.2.1 in relation to Ross Court;
- (iii) request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to formulate a Care Home Strategy for Older People and bring a report to a future committee; and

(iv) otherwise note the content of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**2 March 2005**  
**Enc (0)**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. NHS and Community Care Act 1990
2. Community Care: A Joint Future Report – November 2000
3. Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
4. Fair Care for Older People – Care Development Group Report – September 2001
5. Community Care & Health (Scotland) Act 2002
6. Interim Report of Capacity Planning Services for Older People in East Ayrshire – July 2004

For further information please contact:  
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